

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle ~~characterised by~~arranged for use in bimanual phacoemulsification procedures comprising a rod member arranged for transmission of ultrasonic energy to an ocular substrate to effect emulsification thereof, and a hollow tube member having an inner surface defining a lumen arranged for aspiration of emulsified ocular material, the hollow tube member being disposed about the rod member, the rod member having a distal end and a proximal end and the hollow tube member having a distal end and a proximal end,
wherein the rod member is solid throughout.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the rod member is concentric with a central longitudinal axis of the lumen,

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1 or 2, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the rod member is of uniform cross section throughout its length.

Claim 4 (Cancelled):

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rod member is of circular, oval or polygonal shape in cross section.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the distal end of the rod member is flat, concave, convex or hemispherical.

Claim 7 (Cancelled):

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hollow tube member is circular or oval in cross section.

Claim 9 (Cancelled):

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hollow tube member has an outer surface, and the outer surface and the inner surface define an annular wall.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the annular wall is of uniform thickness throughout.

Claims 12-13 (Cancelled):

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hollow tube member has distal and proximal portions formed of relatively rigid metallic material whilst a mid section of the hollow tube member is formed of relatively flexible plastics material.

Claim 15 (Cancelled):

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hollow tube member has a rubberised exterior or a flexible sleeve applied to an exterior surface thereof to reduce wound leakage.

Claims 17-29 (Cancelled):

Claim 30 (New): A phacoemulsification needle arranged for use in bimanual phacoemulsification procedures comprising a rod member arranged for transmission of ultrasonic energy to an ocular substrate to effect emulsification thereof, and a hollow tube member having an inner surface defining a lumen arranged for aspiration of emulsified ocular material, the hollow tube member being disposed about the rod member, the rod member having a distal end and a proximal end and the hollow tube member having a distal end and a proximal end, wherein the rod member is solid between the distal and proximal ends thereof, a hollow cup-shaped member has a base

which is abutted to the distal end of the rod member, the distal end of the hollow tube member being mounted about the cup-shaped member, and the cup-shaped member being apertured so that aspirated material is able to pass from the cup-shaped member into the lumen.

Claim 31 (New): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 30, wherein the rod member is concentric with a central longitudinal axis of the lumen,

Claim 32 (New): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 30 or 31, wherein the rod member is of uniform cross section throughout its length.

Claim 33 (New): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 30, wherein the rod member is of circular, oval or polygonal shape in cross section.

Claim 34 (New): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 30, wherein the hollow tube member has an outer surface, and the outer surface and the inner surface define an annular wall.

Claim 35 (New): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 30, wherein the annular wall is of uniform thickness throughout.

Claim 36 (New): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 30, wherein the hollow tube member has distal and proximal portions formed of relatively rigid

metallic material whilst a mid section of the hollow tube member is formed of relatively flexible plastics material.

Claim 37 (New): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 30, wherein the hollow tube member has a rubberised exterior or a flexible sleeve applied to an exterior surface thereof to reduce wound leakage.

Claim 38 (New): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 30, wherein the proximal end of the rod member is connected to an enlarged hollow proximal extension, the enlarged proximal extension extending outwardly of the rod member and engaging with the tubular member, the enlarged proximal extension being apertured so that aspirated material from the lumen is able to pass into proximal extension of the rod member.